



CSEPP Policy Paper Number 1

DEFINITION OF MAXIMUM PROTECTION

Public Law 99-145, the Congressional mandate for the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program (CSDP) includes a provision that the Department of Defense ensure "maximum protection for the environment, the general public, and the personnel who are involved in the destruction of the lethal chemical agents and munitions. . .".

In that regard, the basic goal of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) is to mitigate the effects of an accident to the maximum extent practicable. This goal can be achieved in the following ways:

- Through the establishment of comprehensive emergency planning and preparedness programs;
- Through preventive measures designed to render the stockpile less susceptible to both internally and externally generated accident scenarios.

The efficacy of any protective action strategy (evacuation, normal shelter, overpressurization, enhanced shelter, etc.) or preventive measures (fire retardation, overpack containers, enhanced monitoring, etc.) must be considered in light of the following parameters:

- The benefit/cost associated with the design and implementation of the protective measure;
- The acceptance of the strategy by the affected community.

Obviously, the most important objective of the emergency preparedness and implementation process is the avoidance of fatalities to the maximum extent practicable, should an accidental release of chemical agent occur. The precepts set forth above should serve as the Army/FEMA guidelines to assure that the objective is met wherever possible.

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